

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, CI
SUBJECT: HUNGER STRIKE AFTERMATH -- DECLARATION OF RELATIVES
GROUP GIVES GOC 30 DAYS

REF: SANTIAGO 4316

1. THE RELATIVES GROUP ISSUED ITS ANTICIPATED DECLARATION ON THE HUNGER STRIKE AND SOLUTION AT 1500 HOURS JUNE 8. THE DOCUMENTS REVIEWS THE REASONS FOR THE STRIKE, NOTES THAT IT WAS SUCCESSFUL IN AROUSING PUBLIC OPINION TO DEMAND DEFINITIVE EXPLANATIONS FOR THE DISAPPEARANCES, AND THANKS ALL THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN OR SUPPORTED THE ACTION. THERE IS A PARTICULAR WORD OF THANKS FOR THE CATHOLIC CHURCH'S MEDIATION EFFORT WHICH HAS RESULTED IN "THE PLEDGE OF THE GOVERNMENT TO RESPOND FOR EACH ONE OF OUR (RELATIVES) WITHIN A SHORT TIME PERIOD".

2. ACCORDINGLY, THE RELATIVES HAVE SUSPENDED THE HUNGER STRIKE. HOWEVER, THE DOCUMENT CONTINUES: "WE UNDERSTAND THAT, ON ACCOUNT OF THE URGENCY OF THE PROBLEM, A RESPONSE CANNOT BE DELAYED FOR MORE THAN 30 DAYS. MOREOVER, WE MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WE WILL NOT ACCEPT GLOBAL RESPONSES OR FORMULAS FOR OUR ANGUISH (DRAMA).

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WE DO NOT LOOK FOR A LEGAL STATUTE FOR OURSELVES, OR ANY LEGAL FICTION. OUR STRUGGLE IS FOR THE LIFE OF OUR LOVED ONES, IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH FULLY THEIR RIGHTS, WHICH CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED BY THE TRUTH."

3. THE DECLARATION CONTENTS THAT MEANINGFUL RESPONSES BY THE GOC ARE POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE MASS OF EVIDENCE THAT HAS BEEN ACCUMULATED

ON PLACES OF DETENTION AND SECURITY AGENTS INVOLVED "" "WHO FOLLOWED ORDERS OF CHIEFS SUCH AS MANUEL CONTRERAS SEPULVEDA... OR ANOTHER MILITARY AUTHORITY". AND, FURTHER, "IN AN AUTHORITARIAN REGIME IT IS EASY TO DETERMINE THE TRUTH REGARDING THE SECURITY SERVICES BELONGING TO IT."

4. THE DECLARATION CONCLUDES WITH A PROMISE TO CONTINUE USING ALL MEANS AVAILABLE TO OBTAIN DEFINITIVE CLARIFICATION OF THE DISAPPEARANCES, AND A CALL ON THE CHILEAN PEOPLE TO DEMAND THAT THE GOVERNMENT FULFILL ITS PLEDGE QUICKLY AND WITH INTEGRITY (VERDAD).

5. OTHER DEVELOPMENTS. ALTHOUGH A FEW OF THE STRIKERS IN CHURCHES HAVE GONE HOME, FINAL DEPARTURES ARE NOW SET FOR 1800 HOURS JUNE 9, TO BE FOLLOWED BY A MASS AT THE SANTIAGO CATHEDRAL. AT THE AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST, INERIROR UNDER SECRETARY ENRIQUE MONTERO MET JUNE 8 WITH WILLIAM SLOANE COFFIN, ITALIAN DEPUTY SUSANA AGNELLI, JEAN JACQUES GENNAN (A BELGIAN SOCIALIST) AND FRENCH ADMIRAL (RET.) ANTOINE SANGUINETTI, REPRESENTING THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. HE REPORTEDLY TOLD THEM THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL SOON ISSUE A DECLARATION ON THE PROBLEM OF THE DISAPPEARED AND THAT THE GOC EXPECTS TO MAKE PUBLIC TODAY OR TOMORROW THE TEXT OF A LAW "RESOLVING JURIDICAL PROBLEMS OF THE DISAPPEARED PERSONS".

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